

VZCZCXRO7325
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH
DE RUEHBJ #0192/01 1451007
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 251007Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6514
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0295
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0931

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 010192

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [CH](#) [JP](#) [KN](#)

SUBJECT: CHINA'S MAY 25 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: A/S HILL'S
BEIJING MEETINGS, SIX-PARTY TALKS, MILITARY POWER REPORT,
CHINA-JAPAN FM MEETING

BEIJING 00010192 001.2 OF 002

Summary

11. Key points made at the May 25 MFA press briefing
are as follows:

-- EAP Assistant Secretary Christopher Hill met with
VFM Yang Jiechi and VFM Wu Dawei to discuss
implementing consensus reached in the April 2006 Bush-
Hu meetings and in the Fourth Round of Six-Party
Talks.

-- Accusations that China's military budget is non-
transparent are unacceptable. China seeks to
strengthen mutual trust with other countries regarding
its budget and shares broad interests with the United
States.

-- Japanese leaders' visits to the Yasukuni Shrine are
the major obstacle to improved Sino-Japanese
relations. The Doha meeting of FM Li and FM Aso
reached agreement on removing obstacles and FM Aso is
an "important colleague."

-- East Timor President Gusmao's planned visit to
Beijing has been postponed.

-- Ecuador Foreign Minister Carrion will visit China
May 31-June 6.

End Summary.

A/S Hill discusses Bush-Hu summit, Six-Party Talks

12. EAP A/S Christopher Hill met with EVFM Yang Jiechi
and VFM Wu Dawei today in Beijing, MFA Spokesperson
Liu Jianchao stated during his regular May 25 press
briefing. A/S Hill's meeting with Yang focused on
implementing agreements reached between President Bush
and Chinese President Hu during Hu's April 2006 visit
to Washington. A/S Hill's meeting with VFM Wu lasted
four hours, including a working lunch and the two
sides exchanged views on denuclearization of the
Korean Peninsula.

13. Liu said that A/S Hill and Wu agreed that the
consensus reached at the Fourth Round of Six-Party
Talks should be implemented as soon as possible; that
a peace mechanism for the Peninsula should be

established and that denuclearization serves the interests of all Parties. China will continue its positive efforts to break the impasse, based on Beijing's desire to maintain peace, stability and development in North East Asia.

14. Beijing rejects foreign comments that China is not doing enough to move the Talks forward and is seeking only to enhance its self-interest, Liu declared. The PRC hopes the principal Parties concerned will cooperate positively with China's efforts.

Response to CMPR: Strengthen Trust, Reject Allegations

15. Asked by UPI for detailed responses to the China Military Power Report (CMPR), Liu referred to his May 24 statement but added that China takes a "responsible attitude" toward its military budget and wishes to strengthen trust, exchanges and cooperation with other countries, including the United States, on military budget issues. Claims that the PRC military budget is "non-transparent" are unacceptable, Liu added. U.S.-China relations should be cooperative and comprehensive, reflecting broad shared interests on bilateral and international issues. The PRC is not at a "strategic crossroads" but follows the path of peaceful development, according to Liu. China does not have a "U.S. threat theory" and seeks a cooperative and constructive partnership with the United States.

16. Pressed by Global Radio News to comment on whom China is defending against and to explain its Taiwan Strait build-up, Liu stated that China has a vast territory with long borders. The PRC will maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

BEIJING 00010192 002.2 OF 002

China-Japan Foreign Ministers' Doha Meeting

17. During Talks in Doha with Japan FM Taro Aso, FM Li Zhaoxing emphasized China's position on the Yasukuni Shrine, Liu said. Japanese leaders' visits to the shrine are the major obstacle to improved Sino-Japanese relations. The shrine issue is a question of importance and cannot be bypassed or sidelined. Li's meeting with Aso reached agreement on removing obstacles to the relationship and Aso is an "important colleague" in the process of improvement in Sino-Japan ties.

Iran

18. Asked by AFP about reports in Europe characterizing China as an obstacle to resolution of the Iran nuclear issue, Liu said he had not seen the reports but that China would not accept criticism of its role. Beijing upholds the international nonproliferation regime and is not pursuing its own interests with Iran, Liu stated.

Status of Foreign Visits

19. East Timor President Gusmao's planned visit to Beijing has been postponed due to the situation in East Timor. Ecuador FM Carrion will visit China May 31-June 6.

RANDT